CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A server network comprising:

2   a global master server;

3   a local master server coupled to the central master server via a first

4 network and synchronized thereto; and

5   one or more slave servers coupled to the local master server via a

6 second network to perform manufacturing tasks to facilitate building

7 products, the global master, local master and slave servers being

8 programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including

9 automatically configurable as a master or server based on the interface of the

10 server to which they are coupled.

2.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein one of the

2 servers is operable to program another server.

3.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein

2 communication over the first network is secure.

1   4.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein

2   communication over the first network is encrypted.

1   5.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein
2   communication over the first network is secured via SSH.

1   6.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein each of the

2   servers operates with respect to the global master server asynchronously

3   when communication via the first network is unavailable and synchronously

4   when communication via the first network is available.

1   7.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first

2   network comprises the Internet.

1   8.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first

2   network comprises a virtual private network.

1   9.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the first

2   network comprises a physical private network.

1   10.   The server network defined in Claim 1 wherein the second

2   network comprises a local area network (LAN).